

Claims

- 1 1. An application system that is running in CPU and that is capable to changing of the
2 appearance and performance of specified applications in such a way to force a user to
3 abandon this specified application and purchase a new one.
- 1 2. The system as in Claim 1, where changing of the appearance include one or more
2 of the following:
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4 change color, change contrast, change fonts, change intensity, change refresh rate,
5 change content of pictures etc.
- 1 3. The system as in Claim 1, wherein changing of performance includes one or more
2 of the following:
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4 the brightness fades so that it is harder for the user to use the software tool as time
5 progresses; the application window shrinks through time; the font degrades; features
6 gradually drop out; display quality degrades; sound quality degrades; processing
7 speed degrades; network bandwidth degrades; unpleasant visual and auditory
8 stimulus is produced; and information degrades.
- 1 4. The system as in Claim 1 where changing in the program appearance leads to
2 degradation of the view of the application.
- 1 5. The system as in Claim 1 where changes in performance leads to degradation of
2 performance (lower speed, pauses etc.).
- 1 6. The system as in Claim 2 where colors, contrast and fonts are degraded.

- 1 7. The system as in Claim 1 where changes are adjusted to time and starts after some
2 time limits.
- 1 8. The system as in Claim 7 where adjustment to time means gradual changes.
- 1 9. The system as in Claim 1 where this system is a part of the specified application.
- 1 10. The system as in Claim 1 where changes are obtained by manipulating drives in
2 PC.
- 1 11. The system in claim 1 where users pay money or view advertisements to reduce
2 or eliminate degradation.
- 1 12. The system in claim 11 where money is paid to any of: software manufacturer,
2 seller, third party, or degradation service provider.
- 1 13. The system in claim 12 where the amount of degradation is related to the amount
2 of money paid.
- 1 14. A method of operating a trial software application, said trial application being
2 associated with a defined full application, said method comprising the steps of:
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4 providing the trial application with a main program; and
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6 providing the trial application with a subprogram to diminish the performance of the
7 main program over time in order to encourage a user to purchase said defined full
8 application.

1 15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein said subprogram begins to diminish the
2 performance of the main program a defined period of time after the user begins to use
3 the trial application.

1 16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein said subprogram gradually diminishes
2 the performance of the main program over a given time starting at the end of said
3 defined period of time.

1 17. A system for operating a trial software application, said trial application having a
2 main program and being associated with a defined full application, said system
3 comprising:

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5 means for operating the main program;

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7 means for diminishing the performance of the main program over time in order to
8 encourage a user to purchase said defined full application.

1 18. A system according to Claim 17, wherein said means for diminishing included
2 means to begin to diminish the performance of the main program a defined period of
3 time after the user begins to use the trial application.

1 19. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said means for diminishing includes
2 means to diminish gradually the performance of the main program over a given time
3 starting at the end of said defined period of time.

1 20. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for encouraging a
3 user to purchase a full version software application related to a trial version, said
4 method steps comprising:

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(The following are the names of the persons who have been elected to the various offices of the Association since the last meeting.)